Appl. No. 09/925,126
Amdt. Dated Feb. 5, 2004
Reply to Office Action of Nov. 5, 2003, 2003

REMARKS

Election/Restrictions

Applicant affirms the election made by Mr. Wei Te Chung on 10/16/03 to prosecute the invention of group II, claims 3-6.

Claim Amendments

By the above amendments, applicant has rewritten the claims now under consideration to define the invention more particularly and distinctly, and to overcome the technical rejections and define the invention patentably over the prior art.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claims 3-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ciarlante et al (US Pat. No. 6,594,819, hereinafter "Ciarlante").

The Rejections of Claims 3-6 on Ciarlante Are Traversed

Applicant respectfully traverses and submits that the claims under consideration, as amended, are allowable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Ciarlante.

Regarding amended claim 3, an information transacting mechanism comprises an information server, an original information box *selectively extracted* from the information server, a tool server installed with a plurality of *tools having accessing and modifying functions* relating to the original information box and *providing specific functional tools* when instructed by an application server provider, and a tool-added information box being obtained by *packing the original information box with the specific functional tools* of the tool server and then being sent to the

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customer for the customer to access and modify the data contained in the tool-added information box.

Ciarlante does not disclose the limitations as highlighted above in amended claim 3. Specifically, amended claim 3 recites an original information box *selectively extracted* from the information server. Data in the information server may be virtually decomposed into several partitions according to predetermination of an information provider (see para. [0015] lines 1-3 thereof). These partitions may be selectively packed in a box which is hereinafter referred to as an original information box. This is the software decomposition technique used in the present invention (see para. [0015] lines 10-11 thereof). By contrast, Ciarlante provides a DIH host system which uses three tools for tracking users: registration tables in a DIH relational database, a cascaded Public Address Book, and a Public Address Book (see col. 10 lines 5-24 therein). The cascaded Public Address Book stores user records for each person with instances on each hosting server, and is already in existence when it is stored in the DIH host system. The cascaded Public Address Book is not formed by selectively extracting data stored in the DIH host system.

In addition, amended claim 3 recites a tool server installed with a plurality of *tools having accessing and modifying functions* relating to the original information box and *providing specific functional tools* when instructed by an application server provider. Such functional tools may comprise a read tool, a delete tool, a write tool, an authority setting tool and any combination of the above-described tools. The tool server may pack different functional tools into the original information box based on instructions from the application server provider. Through these tools, the customer can access and modify the data contained in the original information box (see para. [0019] circa lines 9-20 thereof). In Ciarlante, the hosting system contains an application warehouse which is a database storing

the application kits provided by the ISVs (see col. 3 lines 55-57 therein). Each application kit includes the *executable files and other files* necessary for execution of the application as well as marketing information to be presented to users and a technical profile which may be used by the host to determine which hosting servers may be used (see col. 4 lines 15-20 therein). However, there is no suggestion or disclosure that the executable files and other files necessary for execution of the application are related or equivalent to the function tools specified in amended claim 3.

Moreover, as Examiner states, Ciarlante does not explicitly teach the claimed limitation "a tool-added information box being [obtained] by *packing the original information box with the specific functional tools* of the tool server and [then being] *sent to the customer* for the customer to access and modify the data contained in the tool-added information box." Ciarlante teaches that during use of the application instance, the host system tracks use of the application by utilizing three tools. The three tools are: registration tables in the DIH relational database for storing account IDs; a cascaded Public Address Book for storing user records; and the Public Address Book for storing groups for each instance. An instance is sent to users to access data such as accounts or user records (see col. 10 lines 5-24 therein). However, the users **cannot** modify the data because the instance does not provide modifying tools. By the way, Ciarlante does NOT send the instance to the user but only sends the messages to the invited guests to join the application instance on the server (column 4, line 50-52).

Further, the novel limitations of amended claim 3 enable effective transference and updating of the information stored in the information server. Ciarlante fails to disclose or suggest these advantages. Rather, Ciarlante is directed to a method and system for providing users with access to a variety of workgroup applications on a subscription basis and the ability to host the

applications for other users. Moreover, Herman et al. does not disclose or suggest any specifics regarding the distinguishing features of amended claim 3 as described above. Applicant asserts that amended claim 3 is unobvious under section 103 in light of Ciarlante, and further in light of Herman et al. Accordingly, applicant requests that the rejection of claim 3 should now be removed, and that the claim be allowed.

Claim 4 depends directly from amended claim 3 and incorporates more features therein. Accordingly, it is submitted that claim 4 is also unobvious over the cited references and in a condition for allowance.

Regarding amended claim 5, an information transacting mechanism between an information provider and a plurality of customers comprises: an information server; one or more original information boxes *selectively extracted* from the information server, each of which contains *specific information* according to predetermination of the information provider; a tool server providing *tools for accessing and modifying information* stored in the original information boxes; one or more tool-added information boxes obtained from the original information boxes *by packing specific tools therein* via the tool server; and a web server for storing the tool-added information boxes and allowing the customers to *selectively access and modify* one or more of the tool-added information boxes according to respective needs of the customers.

Ciarlante does not disclose the claimed limitations of the original information boxes, the tool server and the tool-added information boxes specified in amended claim 5, as described above. In addition, amended claim 5 provides a web server for storing the tool-added information boxes. The web server associates with a web page which the customers may visit to selectively access and modify one or more of the tool-added information boxes according to respective needs of the customers (see para. [0021] circa lines 11-14 therein). Ciarlante also provides a

web server for storing web pages containing offerings. Users of clients 8 make selections of groupware applications through the offerings in the storefront 14. Each groupware application has an instance. The users can access an instance through the web server (see col. 3 lines 55-64 therein). However, the users cannot modify the instance or the corresponding groupware application by visiting the web server.

Herman et al. does not disclose or suggest any specifics regarding the distinguishing features of amended claim 5 as described above. Thus, it is submitted that amended claim 5 is allowable under section 103 over the cited prior art and any combination thereof.

Amended claim 6 is an independent claim incorporating all the features of amended claim 5, and adds the limitation: *the web server being linked to the customers through a portal* which is owned by the internet content provider so that the customers can access the tool-added information boxes stored in the web server by visiting the portal. Therefore, amended claim 6 should also be allowable.

In view of the above claim amendments and remarks, the subject application is believed to be in a condition for allowance and an action to such effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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